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Official quits US breast cancer group after funding row

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A senior executive with the US-based Komen breast cancer foundation with strong anti-abortion views stepped down Tuesday in the aftermath of a bruising funding furor with Planned Parenthood.

In a statement, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure said it had accepted the resignation of Karen Handel, its senior vice president for policy since April 2011 and a one-time Republican candidate for governor of Georgia.

"I have known Karen for many years, and we both share a common commitment to our organization's lifelong mission, which must always remain our sole focus," Komen founder Nancy Brinker said. "I wish her the best in future endeavors."

On Friday, Komen reversed its decision to stop funding breast screenings at Planned Parenthood clinics after an outcry over the move triggered a political and fund-raising backlash by women's health advocates.

Handel, 49, was widely believed to have been a key player in Komen's decision to end its long-standing ties with Planned Parenthood, given her opposition to abortion. She had been hired by Komen to be its vice president for public policy and chief lobbyist in Washington.

But in her letter of resignation, Handel said the decision to cut funding was not based "on anyone's political beliefs or ideology," according to an excerpt in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper.

Renewed interest in Aruba's refinery from Brazil

ORANJESTAD -- An Aruban delegation led by the Prime Minister of Aruba recently met with the Minister of Energy and Mining of Brazil, Mr. Labao, in the country of Brazil. Their mission was to discuss a strategic cooperation between Aruba and Brazil. The Brazilian minister accepted Aruba's invitation to be the keynote speaker for Aruba's 2012 Green Conference.

During the encounter with Mr. Labao they discussed the situation with the Valero Aruba Refinery. Labao reacted very positively to information regarding Valero. According to Prime Minister Eman, ... "Brazil has indicated renewed interest in the refinery and is prepared to explore the possibilities with Aruba once more."

The Aruba delegation made a visit to Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia where they gave a presentation of the diversification of Aruba's economy with respect to our strategic position within the Dutch Kingdom. The Brazilian Minister, Labao reported that he knows Aruba well and that they will offer their cooperation in view of the importance of this matter for our economy.

The Aruba Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza, reported that the government's income from the petrol industry, which includes foreign exchange, and salaries from Valero, accounts for 15% of our GDP. The mission to Brazil was definitely a fruitful mission. Labao also reiterated this. The Brazilian Minister reported that the meeting of Mike Eman with Petrobras scheduled for March



Mr. Edison Lobao, flanked by, at left, Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman and, at right, Minister of Finance, Energy and Utilities Mike de Meza.

son, the Aruban delegation was extremely pleased with the renewed interest from Brazil in an eventual cooperation with Aruba's refinery.

Ronald van Trigt, President of ATIA who is organizing a commercial mission to Brazil in the month of March, was extremely satisfied with the encounters during this mission to Brazil with the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Van Trigt indicated that... "In view of Aruba's strategic position as a gateway between Latin America and Europe, it is essential for Aruba to have a presence in this south american country, especially at this time of the economic boom of Brazil."

Brazil has both the crude as well as the experience with respect to exploration, refining and the development of sustainable energy. For this reason,

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Aruba Women's Day Conference to be held here on International Women's Day



ORANJESTAD -- On March 8th the world celebrates the United Nations' recognized International Day of Women.

This year again Aruba joins in celebrating this important day. This year Aruba has planned a unique and innovative program to commemorate the fight of women for equal participation in the society and in the integral development as individuals, according to the Aruba Minister of Social Affairs.

This year marks the 101 anniversary of this world recognized date, which honors the challenges that women encounter in the scope of daily life, such as in economics, politics, social and in the different fases of the life of women.

Continued on page 3

Aruba has planned a spectacular event during this special day. They intend to bring women together from around the world to our island to discuss, debate, interact and exchange information to inform and inspire our women here.

Last year the Center for the Development of Women was inaugurated here on Women's day, so this year marks the first anniversary of this Center. The Center is dedicated to serving and promoting the welfare of women on Aruba, offering help and support in whatever way possible and especially when our women need this most, according to Minister Hooyer-Winklaar.

Hyatt Regency unveils their new Shoco Market Café



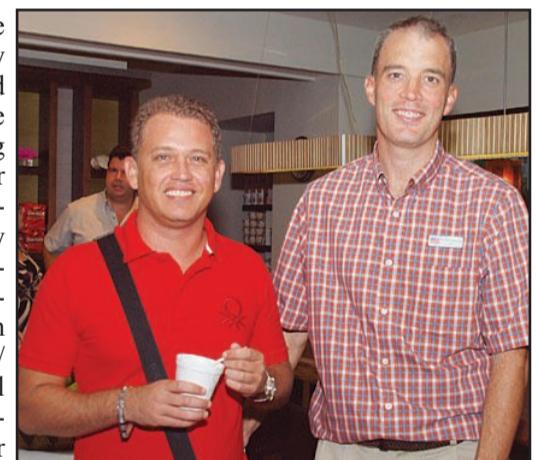
GM Fred Hoffmann with executives and staff of Shoco

"The expansion and renovation of our mini-mart into the Shoco Market Café was completely in response to the input and wishes of our patrons," explained Hyatt Regency General Manager Fred Hoffmann during the official unveiling of the stylish new snack shop on Tuesday evening, February 7. The conversion into a cozy eatery in the shopping arcade now offers guests the option of relaxing and enjoying a light meal in air-conditioned comfort, or easily taking it out to the storefront with little loss of beach time. For those that prefer to linger, plasma screens in the dining area provide the latest news and sports results.

Executive Hyatt Regency staff greeted guests for the opening, offering samples of their selection of pizzas and hearty sandwiches, including a tempting Reuben on marbled rye/pumpernickel bread. The Shoco, named for Aruba's iconic indigenous owl, also offers a wide variety of Starbucks' coffees and lattes with some mouthwatering muffins, pastries and croissants to pro-

vide a quick breakfast or brunch.

The combination café and mini-market also allows patrons to put their meal together from an attractive inventory, to consume out on the beach. Salads, cold sandwiches and fruit are handy, with a complete selection of bottled cold beverages and wine to serve yourself frozen yogurt with lots of toppings or ice creams at the counter; Hyatt listened to their guests and responded to their suggestions with what they believe answers all their needs in one tidy, attractive



Assistant F&B Manager Crew Carnahan with The Morning News sales executive Yanis Garcia

package, open early to late for breakfast, lunch and snacking.

by Rosalie Klein



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Aruba Women's Day Conference to be held here...

Continued from page 2



This year, the government together with the support of CEDEHM, ATIA and the Aruba Women's Club have organized a rather big event, which will be entitled "Aruba Women's Day Conference." They plan to have a number of workshops addressing important and relevant topics related

directly to the welfare of women in our society.

Several experts from abroad are expected to share their expertise, knowledge and experiences with our people here, of course with a primary focus on our women. This year, the United Nations has chosen the theme, "Connecting

women, inspiring their future," and Aruba is incorporating this theme in the presentations on March 8th.

The Minister of Social Affairs is scheduled to speak at the conference on the subject, "Girls, Women and the recipe for Amazing." Following the presentation by Aruba's Minister of Social Affairs, five professional speakers who have excelled in their respective areas will continue. The first of these will be former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs. Emily de Jong-Elhage. Global Vice Chair of Ernst & Young listed on Forbes Top 100 most powerful Women, Beth Brooke is slated to be the next speaker. Then, Dr. Jean Houston, well known in the Clinton Administration who assisted

Hilary Clinton with the writing of her book, "It takes a Village," will be another speaker.

Still another speaker will be Nathalie Hughes who is well known for her writing of songs and poems about women in general. Finally, the conference will be graced with words from Crystal Andrews, who will speak on the aspects of the different challenges that women may face in daily life and what tools women can use to conquer these challenges.

The schedule for the Workshops is set for 9:00am to 4:00pm which will give ample time and opportunity for discussion and questions and answers.

On the 8th of March the Conference will continue, and on the 9th they will continue

the Workshops where ATIA, the Women's Club of Aruba and CEDEHM will play an important role.

The government is inviting one and all to register for these extremely interesting workshops. All the workshops on both days are completely free, and all are welcome, including men.

Present at the Press Conference announcing the Women's Day Conference were Sandra Brown of CEDEHM, Joyce Bartels Daal of ATIA and Rubia Maduro of the Women's Club of Aruba.

For more information, please contact their website at: www.womensday.aw. Here you can also get more information about the various speakers of the workshops.

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Led Lights to illuminate Linear Park



ORANJESTAD -- Last weekend contractors began installing the new street lights in the Linear Park area. Reportedly, phase one of the Linear Park project, which leads from the Las Americas round about up to the Governor's House, should be completed shortly.

Rafi Kock, one of the architects in charge of the Linear Park project, explained that they will fill the uncompleted area along the route with granite and after the Carnival period they will complete the work of laying the cycling path and the walking path.

In the meantime different jobs will continue. Last weekend they began installing some of the new lights along the route on the street side. Last Sunday they succeeded in installing 20 light poles. They still have 14

more to install. They will attempt installing these this week or after the Carnival period.

In the design of the Linear Park project they decided that illumination was a key aspect, especially in light of the security of those walking through the area at night time. They chose to use the LED type of lights which has lamps lasting 100,000 hours. This will result in lamps lasting as long as 11 years of continual use, or 22 years at 50% operation! Normal lights have a lamp life of about 5000 hours. These lamps, in addition to being less expensive to operate – they use much less electricity – the cost of maintenance is considerably less since they need only be replaced every 11 or 22 years!

The use of these LED lamps is one of the ways that the government is attempting to reduce costs. One other area where these lights are in operation is at the Rood di Barcadera (the Barcadera Swamp).

LED lights are definitely not new in the world, but for Aruba they are just now making their entrance. The various lighted billboards across the island are using these type of lights. It is expected that in the future, across the world, LED lights will replace virtually every other type of light and light bulb presently in use.

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Hyatt Regency Casino introduces new TiTo technology



Casino Director Ricky Tromp with Geraldine Coutinho and casino execs



Another media format taken over by sexy vampires

Hyatt Regency Director of Casino Operations Ricky Tromp proudly explained the newest advances in slot gaming as Slots Manager Martin Dijkhoff demonstrated their "Ticket in Ticket out" (Tito) system, providing ease of use combined with improved hygiene.

The Hyatt has spent \$6 million dollars in improvements to patron amenities in addition to the \$50 million facelift and room renovations of a couple of years ago. A substantial portion has gone to the enlargement and improvement of their spa, which will officially open

their card to initiate play on the slots. LED readouts not only informs the player of their balance and credits, but also provides a choice of 4 TV channels where they can follow favorite sports action without ever taking their eyes off the machine.

Slot machines now print out a ticket of winnings, which can be redeemed at the cashier or used to play on any other machine. Those who prefer the feel of coins and the sound of them coming out in a cascade of winnings can still make use of the slots imbedded in the casino bar. PAC members also earn credits with play towards great gifts from the Hyatt such as their fabulous Sunday Brunch and other valuable services of the resort.

The TiTo system will be coupled with twice-monthly



LED readout has individual TV to follow sporting events

Guests at the casino can insert bills into the machines or enjoy the perks of a Player Advantage Club (PAC) membership, and use slot tournaments and increased events in the casino that make membership even more attractive. All are invited to stop by the casino and check out the new slots and to become a member, which includes a \$10 credit to sample the excitement.

by Rosalie Klein



Slots Manager Martin Dijkhoff demonstrates new system

Aruba present at Caribbean Marketplace

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Caribbean Marketplace of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) just recently took place in Nassau, Bahamas. The Caribbean Marketplace is recognized as the most important event of tourism and marketing for the Caribbean region. This yearly event brings tourism partners together from all parts of the world to discuss the trends of the industry and to focus on expanding and developing new business relationships.

This tourism event is the

most important for the North American market. We recall that in 2007 Aruba was the proud host to CHTA.

This year's Marketplace took place at the famous Atlantis Resort at Paradise Island with more than 1200 people participating. Those participating were buyers, suppliers and international press. The event offers the opportunity to recapitulate the results of the previous year and to present the projections of how the industry will develop in 2012. Participants also use the occasion to



discuss and share issues related to sales, strategies and marketing tactics as well as to devise cooperative initiatives.

Caribbean Marketplace is definitely the platform for developing relationships across the region. Aruba was well represented at this magna event.

Executives of Aruba Tourism Authority were in attendance, namely, Mario Arends of ATA Aruba and Adwina Arends of ATA North America. Also present were Jim Hepple, AHATA CEO, and Joanne Arends of the Aruba Airport Authority. Tourism partners who also participated at this year's Caribbean Marketplace were De Palm Tours, Bucuti and Tara Resorts, Radisson Aruba Beach Resort, Red Sails Sports, Icon Hotels, Renaissance, Holiday Inn, Amsterdam Manor and Divi Resorts.

Don't miss the Carubbian Festival this coming Thursday



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Carubbian Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

This week, Rincon Boyz, specializing in the music typical of Bonaire, opens the show from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including Aruba's new Children and Roadmarch Queens, Izellah Ruiz and Kyra Hoevertz with performances by Masiduri and Super Dance companies; Limbo and Carnival end the evening, and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including steelpan music with Nico Connor and Bito and the Boys.

Island visitors can enjoy the Carubbian festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Aid sent by helicopter as thousands remain cut off in Europe

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Helicopters ferried food and medicine to iced-in villagers yesterday as Europe's 12-day-old cold snap tightened its frigid grip on the continent, where more than 400 have died as a direct result.

Eastern countries such as Poland and the Ukraine account for more than half this total, and dozens more have succumbed to the weather's secondary effects, such as asphyxiation by shoddy heating.

Heavy snows eased in Bosnia but the bitter cold continued, especially in the south and southeast, where temperatures dropped to minus 20 degrees Celsius (minus 4 Fahrenheit.) Thousands struggled without power, including around the historic city of Mostar, where some 15,000 homes lacked electricity.

Bosnian authorities yester-

day sent civilian and military helicopters to isolated hamlets near Mostar and Kalinovic, bringing much-needed supplies and ferrying sick people to hospitals.

Russian authorities announced at least 110 people had died as a result of the cold so far this year, 44 of them in the first week of February alone.

Elsewhere, icebreakers were hard at work to clear parts of the Danube, one of Europe's main arterial waterways, with stretches of hundreds of kilometers (miles) frozen between Croatia and Bulgaria.

Serbia's ministry for infrastructure and energy banned navigation along all waterways within the country, including the Danube, Sava and Tisa rivers, because they were frozen, Beta news agency reported.

Deputy minister Pavle Galic told the agency the rivers

could be closed for as long as 10 days.

More than 70,000 people remain cut off from the outside world in Serbia and other Balkan countries. In southern Croatia more than 100 villages were still isolated for the sixth consecutive day.

Miserable conditions persisted in Bulgaria, with violent snowstorms raging in the Danube plain in the northeast, where all traffic has been suspended since Tuesday and where the main border crossing with Romania was closed due to ice.

At least eight people drowned Monday after rivers flooded and a burst dam sent freezing waters into the village of Biser. Officials warned that heavy snow storms could trigger floods when the spring melt begins, and the government was implementing urgent measures to strengthen dams and riverbeds.

The Hungarian Central Bank, meanwhile, said it literally had money to burn to help the country's homeless. The bank has been pulping wads of its retired forint banknotes and turning them into briquettes, which make useful heating fuel.

While conditions have been brutal for much of Europe, residents in the Netherlands were waiting with bated breath to see if the country's canals would freeze hard enough to allow a legendary ice-skating race to take place.

For the so-called Elfstedentocht (11 city) race to take place for the first time in 15 years, the ice needs to be at least 15 centimetres (six inches) thick along the entire 200-kilometer (124-mile) route, but ice cover remains patchy along some stretches.

Canals were also frozen in the heart of Paris.



Santa Cruz: A Bolivian soldier stands guard next to a container loaded with 400 kg of seized cocaine in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on February 7, 2012. The drug, being transported in 6,400 bags in two containers, was destined for the European market, with planned stops in Chile and Panama. (AFP PHOTO)

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Hundreds of raids against London gang suspects

LONDON (AFP) - A new specialist police unit tackling London gangs carried out hundreds of raids yesterday, exactly six months on from the riots that hit the capital, arresting nearly 160 people.

The 158 suspected members were picked up as hundreds of Metropolitan Police officers mounted more than 300 raids across the city, starting at dawn.

Those detained are accused of assault, robbery, the supply of drugs and money laundering, police said, and "significant amounts of crack cocaine, heroin and cash" were also seized.

The arrests came as Met Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe said the launch of the new unit was a "step change" in tackling gang crime in London.

The 1,000-strong Trident Gang Crime Command has been created to monitor gang activity and work with local authorities in London.

The unit, thought to be the largest in the country, has 19 dedicated gang crime task forces.

The Metropolitan Police Service said in a statement: "As part of the MPS crackdown on

gang crime, 144 warrants have been executed so far across London, resulting in 158 arrests for a variety of offences including possession of a firearm, the supply and possession of drugs, money laundering and gang-related violence.

"A significant amount of cocaine and cannabis has been seized at various addresses across the capital."

Two people were arrested in Barnet in north London on suspicion of possession of a firearm, and a handgun was found at the scene. Two rounds of ammunition and £4,000 (\$6,350, 4,800 euros) were also seized.

A total of £10,000 was found at another address in London.

Hogan-Howe said the new unit "will allow us to identify and relentlessly pursue the most harmful gangs and gang members."

He added: "It will help us identify young people on the periphery of gangs and work with partners to divert them away."

Officers have been given powers to use injunctions to prevent gang members from communicating with each other.

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Unrest spreads in Maldives

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Angry protesters on at least four outlying islands across the Maldives archipelago attacked police stations and set fire to government buildings yesterday, officials told AFP.

Abdulla Sodig, the mayor of Addu, said one police station had been stormed and another two were surrounded in the first confirmed report unrest had spread beyond the capital Male after Mohamed Nasheed stepped down as president.

Mohamed Shareef, a senior politician from Nasheed's MDP party on the island of Thinadhoo, told AFP a mob of up to 1,000 people had sacked a local police station and set fire to a court building and a council office.

He said angry residents had gathered initially at the harbour area on Thinadhoo, also south of the capital, and asked police to surrender.

On northern Dhidhdhoo island, local councillor Yoosuf Siraf told AFP by telephone that 1,000 people had surrounded the local police station where officers had surrendered peacefully.

He said residents had also taken over a police station on the neighbouring island of Ihavandhoo.

On Tuesday Nasheed, the Maldives' first democratically elected president, resigned after a mutiny by police in the capital.

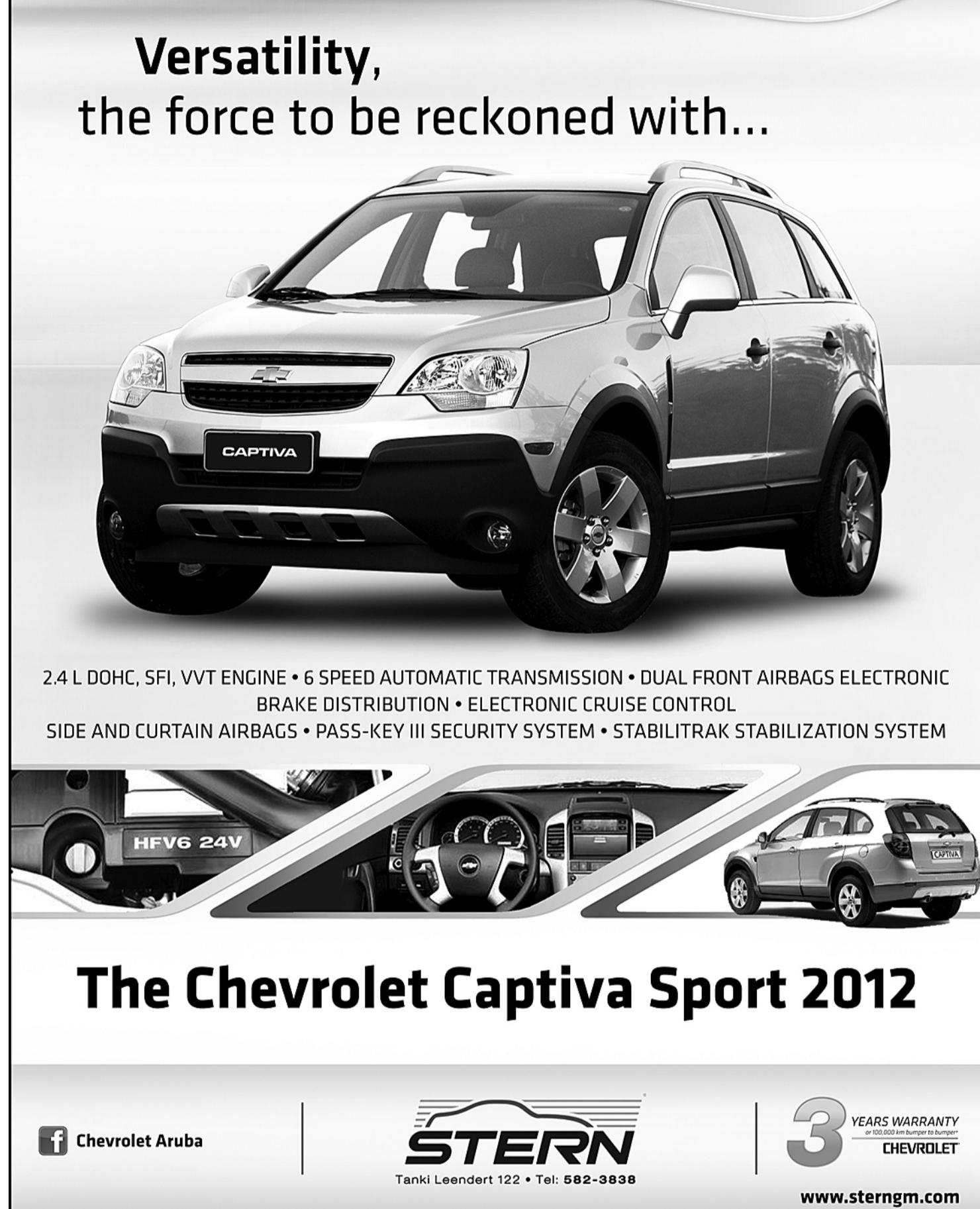
He told AFP it was a bloodless coup and that he was forced to step down by armed rebel military and police officers who threatened violence if he did not relinquish the presidency.

Nasheed's vice president Mohamed Waheed -- who is from a different party -- was sworn in hours later as the new head of state of the famed holiday destination, a collection of more than 1,000 islands off the coast of India and Sri Lanka.

Activists: Dozens dead as Syria regime pounds Homs

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrian forces pressed a relentless assault on the protest city of Homs yesterday, with dozens of civilians reported killed, hours after President Bashar al-Assad said he was committed to ending the bloodshed.

The barrage of gunfire, mortars and shells was launched at dawn and continued all day. State television



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said a car bomb had ripped through the central city, killing and wounding civilians as well as security officers.

The blast hit the neighbourhood of Bayada, the television reported, blaming "armed terrorist gangs." If confirmed, the attack would be the first of its kind in Homs.

It came as Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in-

sisted any outside intervention to stop the violence would be akin to behaving "like a bull in a china shop."

But France and Britain dismissed Moscow's efforts to end nearly 11 months of bloodshed in Syria and cast doubt on Assad's claim that he was "fully committed" to resolving the crisis.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head

of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said at least 62 people were killed across the country yesterday, including 50 in Homs.

Among those killed in the beleaguered city were three entire families slain overnight by "shabiha" armed regime supporters, he said. The dead included at least three children aged five, seven and 15.

The most intense shelling was in Baba Amr, where at least 23 buildings were completely destroyed, including a home hit by a rocket that killed a little girl, Abdel Rahman said.

Activists in Homs said the widespread shelling was a clear bid to pave the way for a ground assault on Syria's third city.



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Health & Living

US begins stem cell trial for hearing loss

(AFP) - US researchers have begun a groundbreaking trial to test the potential of umbilical cord blood transplants, a kind of stem cell therapy, to treat and possibly reverse hearing loss in infants.

The phase I trial follows promising studies on mice showing that such transplants were able to rebuild the structures of the inner ear, and some anecdotal evidence from humans, sparking hope of a cure for some forms of deafness.

One of those people is two-year-old Finn McGrath, who suffered brain damage after being deprived of oxygen during a prolonged and complicated delivery, according to his mother, Laura.

Finn's early days were an all-out struggle to survive, so for his parents, learning that he had failed his hearing tests and had damaged hair cells -- the sensory receptors in the inner ear that pick up sounds -- was almost an afterthought.

He had organ failure, breathing problems, and his cerebral palsy left him unable to roll, crawl or walk, hold his head up, talk or eat.

As his parents searched for ways to help him, they came upon stories online that told of studies using cord blood to help children with cerebral palsy and other disorders.

Prior to his birth, the McGraths had arranged to privately bank his umbilical cord blood, a procedure that costs

around \$2,000 plus storage fees, and remains controversial among pediatricians.

Private companies such as the Cord Blood Registry, which is funding the Texas study on hearing loss, urge expecting parents to bank their umbilical cord blood and reserve it for personal use as a way to protect their family.

That advice runs counter to the guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2007, which calls such claims "unsubstantiated" and says banking for personal or family use "should be discouraged" but is "encouraged" if it is to be stored in a bank for public use.

Since Finn's parents had already banked his, they enrolled him in cord blood trial for cerebral palsy in North Carolina and he received his first transplant in November 2009 when he was about seven weeks old.

A second transfusion followed and by May, his parents began to notice a change.

Nighttime noises, like an alarm on his food pump or the sound of ripping medical tape, would suddenly startle him awake, his mother recalled.

Finn had a third infusion in September 2010, when he was one year old. Four months later, an otoacoustic emissions test (OAE), which plays a sound and picks up vibrations in the cochlea and hair cells, came back normal.

The early hearing tests that showed hearing loss were not exactly the same as the later tests that came back normal, so McGrath is cautious about comparing them directly, but she believes the cord blood transfusions may have helped.

The hearing trial in Texas aims to take a first step in testing the safety, and later the efficacy, of transfusing cord blood in children age six weeks to 18 months who have sustained post-birth sensorineural hearing loss.

Some reasons that children lose their hearing at or after birth may include oxygen deprivation, head injury, infection, strong doses of antibiotics or loud noises.

Sensorineural hearing loss affects approximately six per 1,000 children, and there is no available medical treatment. Hearing aids or cochlear implants are typically offered to boost the ability of the damaged tissues.

7 steps for healthy eating



The trick is to eat healthily, exercise regularly and slim gently.

- 1 You only need to cut out 200 calories per day to lose weight (assuming you are usually within the recommended limits of 1,500 calories per day for women and 2,000 calories for men).
- 2 Keep creative control over your meals.
- 3 Keep your meals balanced - the more natural colours on your plate, the more nutrients you get.
- 4 Drink lots of liquid (more water if possible).
- 5 Have meals on Schedule (try 4 small meals instead of 2 big)
- 6 Exercise! at least 30minutes a day, will do!
- 7 Aim to fit clothes better rather than weigh less.



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Amazon planning first real-world shop: report



(AFP) - Online retail titan Amazon will open its first real-world shop in just a few months, according to a blog devoted to news about electronic readers such as the popular Kindle.

Amazon spokeswoman Mary Osako on Tuesday declined to discuss the report, telling AFP "We don't comment on rumors or speculation."

Website goodereader.com cited unnamed sources close to

the project as saying that Amazon intends to open a small boutique shop in its hometown of Seattle devoted mainly to books and the company's Kindle tablets.

The shop will showcase digital books as well as ink-and-paper editions printed by Amazon's publishing arm, according to goodereader.

Apple has had phenomenal success with its retail stores devoted to the California company's coveted iPads, iPhones, iPods, and Macintosh computers.

The new Kindle Fire tablet has been touted as a viable challenger to the iPad, and Amazon may be following Apple's winning model of providing a tailored buying experience that puts devices and accessories in shoppers' hands.

Amazon's fourth-quarter net profit sank to \$177 million,

compared to \$416 million a year before, and earnings per share dropped to 38 cents from 91 cents, short of analyst forecasts.

Net sales grew 34.6 percent in the quarter to \$17.4 billion, but a 37.6 percent rise in costs ate away at the Internet sales giant's margins.

Despite a hugely successful holiday season for its Kindle e-reader and tablet devices, with sales up 177 percent from a year earlier, Amazon was challenged by price cutting from rivals on the Web and those with storefronts, and many with both.

The company said to expect more of the same for the first quarter -- strong sales growth but narrowing profit margins.

It forecast at best a 69 percent fall in operating income for the current quarter, and allowed for a possible net loss.

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Sci-Tech

Outrage over Steve Jobs angel in Taiwan ad

(AFP) - A Taiwanese television commercial featuring a Steve Jobs look-alike angel complete with white wings and a halo has caused uproar, with critics saying it is disrespectful towards Apple's late founder.

The commercial shows well-known local comedian A-Ken in blue jeans and a black turtleneck praising the virtues of a tablet from Taiwan-based Action Electronics that runs on Google's Android operating system.

"I'd like to present to you a new generation of tablets. It's amazing," a smiling A-Ken says in the 20-second commercial. "My God, I finally have another Pad to play with."

Jobs, who died in October at the age 56, was no fan of

Google's Android system, considering it a rip-off of Apple's technology.

On Facebook, Taiwanese writer Wu Ruo-quan criticised the commercial, calling it "shallow" and revealing a lack of respect for Jobs' family.

A majority of reactions by average Taiwanese Internet users were also negative.

Action Electronics vice-president Sun Yi-min said the commercial is simply aimed to promote sales and is not meant to show disrespect for anyone, according to the United Daily News.

Last month, a China-based company was forced to scrap plans to market a doll made to resemble Jobs following "immense pressure" from lawyers.



Pakistani fishermen use cranes to pull the carcass of a whale shark from the waters at a fish harbour in Karachi on February 7, 2012. The 40-feet whale, weighing about 6-7 tons, was found dead in Arabian Sea in the port city of Karachi.

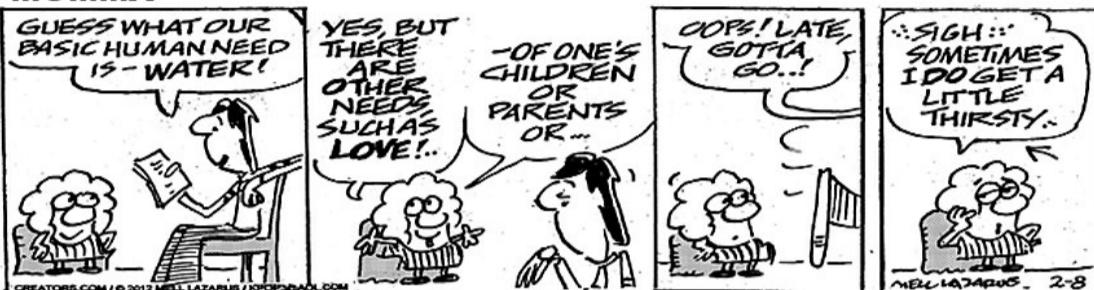
AFP PHOTO

CO MICS

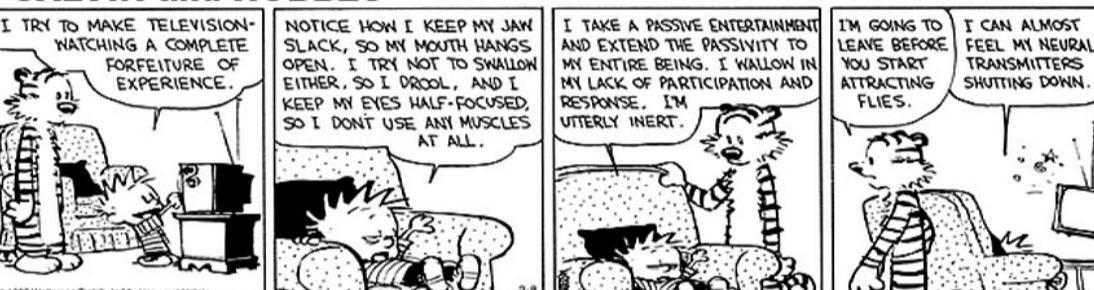
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



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ACROSS

- Attar emanation
- Goof off
- Make fondue
- Like a black cocktail dress
- Real pipperoo
- Sundance Institute locale
- Nonsense
- "The Ghost and Mrs. ___"
- Tokyo, once
- They cover Highland heads
- Sex drive
- Turkish title of honor
- Erica's "Fame" role
- Oppugn
- Toronto ballplayer
- Make tracks to the parson
- Rugged rock
- Eye tunic
- Pack down tobacco
- Just baked
- Pert girl
- Kazakhstan sea
- Eton's plethora
- Decrease
- Flowery sea creature
- Without a key, in music
- Iowa Indian
- ___ forma
- Acquire
- Water or gas conduit
- chi ch'uan
- Lanai feast
- Nonsense
- Clapton or Heiden
- Organic

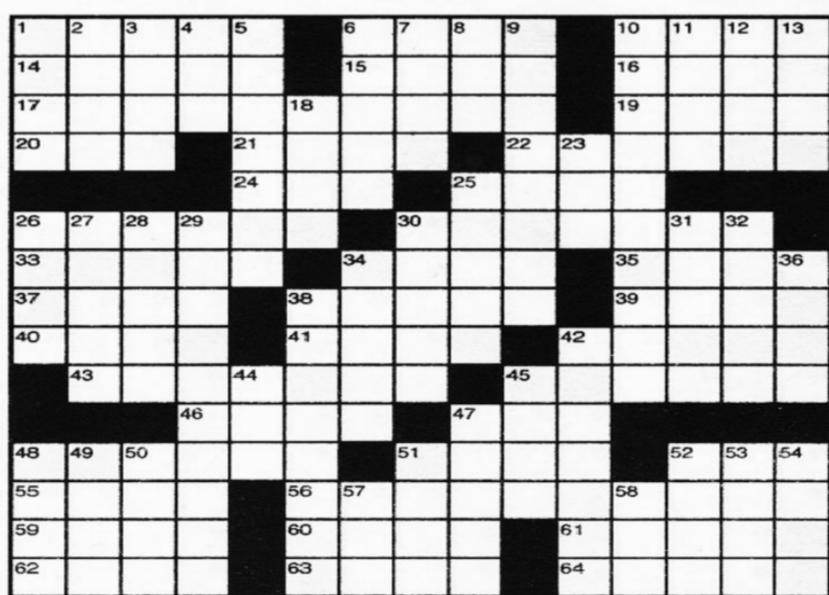
compound

- Right-hand page
- Lascivious look
- Nevada gambling town
- Attacked

DOWN

- French priest
- Surprise attack
- Where to see Ra II
- Russian jet
- Synthetic fabric
- Pack animal of Peru
- Inning's six
- Brewery product
- Military leave
- Nonsense
- Small needle
- case
- "The best ___ plans of mice..."
- Poetic preposition
- Conduct, as war
- Hans Brinker's playground
- Category
- Kind of ray
- Small moon of Jupiter
- Member of Antony's audience
- Nonsense
- Plait, of old
- Like Audubon's work
- Gossiping busybody
- Fusspot
- Figure

THAT'S NONSENSE!



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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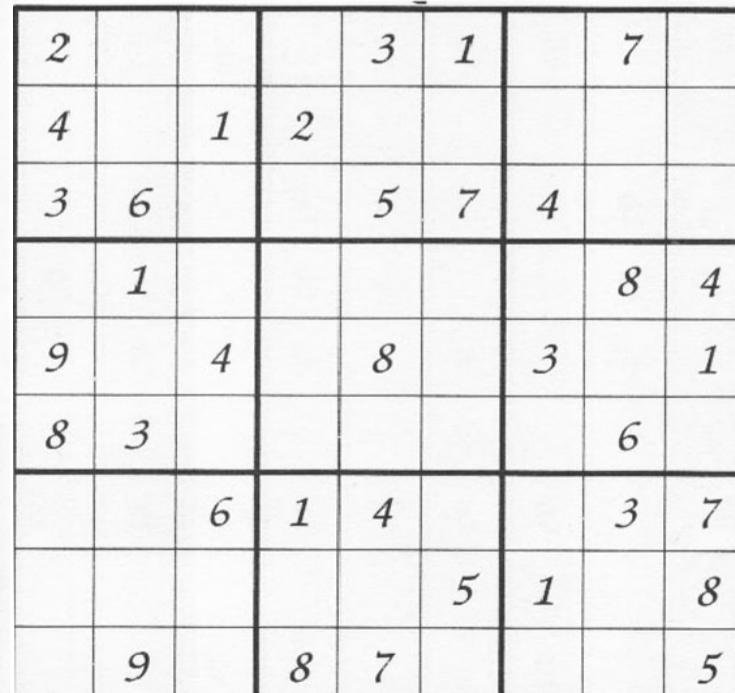
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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HQS
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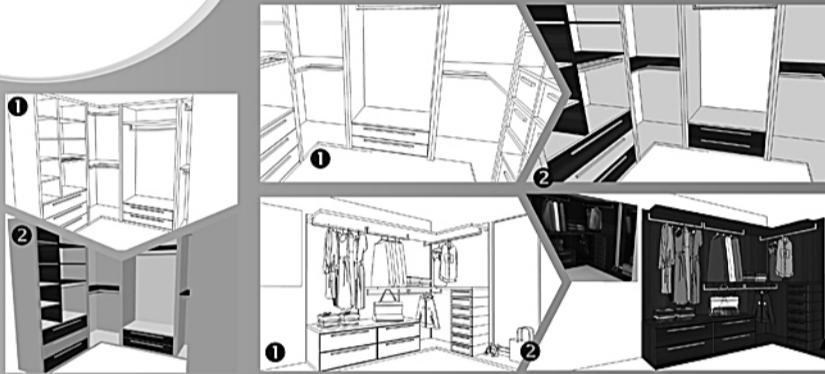
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Venezuela in joint oil venture with Gazprom unit

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela has approved a joint venture between the state-run oil giant PDVSA and Gazprombank, a subsidiary of the Russian energy giant Gazprom, the government's official gazette said yesterday.

The joined venture has the goal to "strengthen energy operations" in the oil-rich Orinoco belt in eastern Venezuela, the statement said.

Petroleos de Venezuela will hold a 60 percent share of the joint venture, while Gazprombank Latin America Ventures

would have a 40 percent stake, according to the gazette. By law, no foreign company can own more than 40 percent stake in an energy project.

The National Assembly, where supporters of President Hugo Chavez hold a majority, approved the joint venture late Tuesday.

The region, some 55,314 square kilometers (21,360 square miles) in eastern Venezuela's Orinoco River area, has seen a boon in domestic and foreign investment in recent years as Caracas

seeks to exploit the region's heavy and extra-heavy oil reserves.

The US Geological Survey in 2010 estimated there were 513 billion barrels of "technically recoverable heavy oil" in the region, although for years experts believed it was prohibitively expensive to extract and refine the oil in the area.

But steadily depleted light crude reserves, and an increase in global oil prices -- currently around \$100 a barrel, against \$20 a barrel in the 1990s -- have revived interest among foreign firms that have pledged tens of billions of dollars in investment.

Venezuela, Latin America's leading exporter of crude, has the world's largest proven crude oil reserves at nearly 300 billion barrels.

Venezuela produces about three million barrels of crude per day, according to official government figures, and is one of the top 10 world biggest oil producers.

Currently some 30 companies from more than 20 different countries are operating in the Orinoco region.

Venezuela earlier agreed to allow Russia's Gazprom to take part in offshore natural gas exploration.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 02/08/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.77	2.82	2.88
Switzerland	CHF	195.02	195.74	196.54
Netherlands	EUR	234.28	236.42	238.79
Sweden	SEK	25.79	26.51	27.31
Denmark	DKK	30.85	31.57	32.37
Norway	NOK	30.02	30.74	31.54
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Finance

French cabinet approves financial transactions tax

PARIS (AFP) - The French cabinet yesterday agreed to pursue a tax on financial transactions that Paris hopes will eventually be adopted by other European countries.

The project, touted by President Nicolas Sarkozy as a tool against the eurozone debt crisis, will see a 0.1 percent tax on buying shares belonging to firms with a French headquarters and more than one billion euros in capital.

The French finance ministry estimates the tax, which if passed by parliament would take effect on August 1, will bring in 1.1 billion euros (\$1.45 billion) annually to state coffers.

The project will also include a 0.01 tax on naked Credit Default Swaps -- a bet that a country will default on its debt -- and on high-frequency trading.

France and Germany are pushing for a Europe-wide tax on financial transactions to help state coffers suffering from the eurozone debt crisis but Sarkozy said Paris would

go ahead first if others were not ready.

French Finance Minister Francois Baroin signalled on Tuesday that nine eurozone governments -- Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain -- were ready to press ahead with such a tax.

This comes in the face of fierce opposition to an EU-wide tax from Britain, whose Prime Minister David Cameron said during a recent EU summit that French banks would up and move to the City of London to escape the tax.

The tax was among a series of proposals recently put forward by Sarkozy to boost France's ailing economy as he faces a tough battle for re-election against Socialist candidate Francois Hollande in an April presidential vote.

Another of the measures, a sales-tax increase that will be used to lower payroll charges for employers, was also approved by the cabinet yesterday.

Spain raises 4bn euros in surprise syndicated 10-year bond

MADRID (AFP) - The Spanish treasury raised four billion euros (\$5.3 billion) in a surprise issue of 10-year bonds yesterday, more than the two to three billion it had originally intended, Spanish media reported.

The syndicated bond issue has received strong demand of over 8.0 billion euros, several media reports said, with the bonds placed at an average rate of return for investors of 5.4503 percent.

The banks that handled the bond sale are Barclays, BBVA, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Santander and Societe Generale.

The surprise bond issue came amid falling yields on government bonds from highly indebted nations on the eurozone periphery.

With the country set to slump into recession, the government has taken advantage of the situation to place greater amounts of debt than initially planned for the beginning of the year.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

STAMP	TWIT	GEST
ERROR	URGE	ASTA
NUMBER	NINE	YSER
DES	SEATO	INERT
SECOND	PATEN	FEES
APART	RANT	ESTE
NEAT	DEICE	TORA
DENY	ETRE	EIDER
NUKES	SNEAKS	
ENLIVEN	ATTS	
FAUNA	TIGER	SOO
RITE	NINETEENTH	
EVER	BORN	AXIOM
MESS	ANET	TETES

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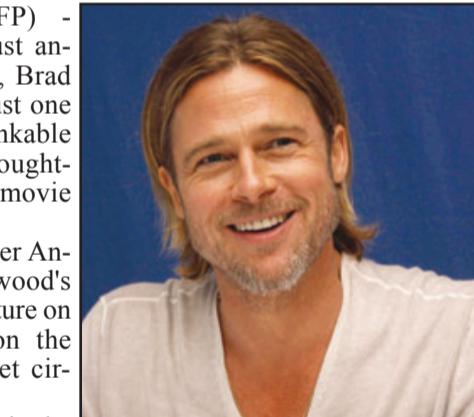
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post-production and other indispensable tasks.

"Any movie you see here today wouldn't have made it to the screen, unless you had someone with the idea that this would make a good movie and then the fortitude and luck to push it through. Each one of these movies took some heavy lifting," Pitt told AFP.

"That's why I enjoy the producing side so much," he said.

Not that Hollywood's golden boy is any slouch in the acting department.

Pitt came to public eye 20 years ago with a much-talked-about shirt-less film debut as eye-candy in the hit movie "Thelma and Louise."

Pitt has since been nominated for acting Oscars in 1996 for "Twelve Monkeys" and again in 2009 for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Moneyball, his third nod, also garnered a best picture nomination.

His work on the production side of the film business had been made possible via his Plan B Entertainment film production company.

Over the years he has produced some two dozen films, including "Running with Scissors," "The Year of the Dog" and "Kick-Ass" -- movies without a commercial Hollywood aesthetic and that might never have been made if not for his involvement.

Another Plan B project was last year's "The Tree of Life" which Pitt also starred in and which was directed by Terrence Malick.

Recalling the collaboration, Pitt's eyes light up at the mere mention of Malick's name.

"Terrence would get up in the morning and just kind of type like a stream-of-conscious ideas of today's scenes. And he would come and give us his pages. And we would only do a couple takes," the actor said, with a clear appreciation for this fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants approach to acting.

He plans to take a breather from the frenetic pace, to spend a bit more time with Jolie and the six children they have together.

"It's family first. This year, I needed to spend more time with my family so I spent more quiet time developing stuff," he said.

Brad Pitt moves from onscreen to behind-the-scenes

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Never content to be just another Hollywood hunk, Brad Pitt these days is not just one of America's most bankable film stars but also a sought-after and influential movie producer.

Pitt and his life partner Angelina Jolie are Hollywood's gilded first couple, a fixture on the Big Screen and on the awards' show red carpet circuit.

The actor, 48, starred in the critically acclaimed "Moneyball" for which he has won a best actor Oscar nomination to this year's awards, as well as in the art film "The Tree of Life."

But these days, it is Pitt's work as a producer that most sets his heart racing. The actor, who says he is a "perfectionist" when it comes to his work, is on a mission to make sure that quality films, not just mindless trifles, get made in Hollywood.

In "Moneyball" Pitt played the role of Billy Beane, a baseball manager who developed a quirky but effective statistically-based approach to spotting on-field talent.

Pitt relished his Oscar-nominated role in the film, but said he may have gotten even more satisfaction as its producer.

The critically important behind-the-scenes-player on all films is responsible for hiring the director, overseeing the budget, coordinating the film's

Madonna launches ninth world tour

LONDON (AFP) - "Madonna is having a huge party and everyone's invited! The Madonna 2012 World Tour begins May 29th, 2012, in Tel Aviv, Israel," her international promoter Live Nation Entertainment announced. It will also pass through Europe and the Americas and returning to Australia for the first time in 20 years.

The news comes just days after the 53-year-old's dazzling performance at the Super Bowl, where rapper M.I.A. caused a furore by raising her middle finger during an ensemble version of Madonna's new single, "Give Me All Your Luvin".

The tour is her first since the hugely successful "Sticky and Sweet" tour in 2008 and

2009, and will promote Madonna's new album "MDNA", out in March.

She has sold more than 300 million albums and won seven Grammys during a career spanning more than three decades, has worked as a film actor and director and in November launched a new fashion line.

"Madonna's track record as a world class entertainer and touring artist speaks for itself," said her promoter, Arthur Fogel.

Madonna's latest film, "W.E.", a story of the romance between Britain's King Edward VIII and US divorcee Wallis Simpson which she directed, co-wrote and co-produced, is currently on general release.



Carnaval Schedule

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 10:
* **Aruba's Carnaval Queen Election 58** - Aruba Entertainment Center - 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 11:
* **Children's parade Noord** - 1 p.m.
* **Aruba's Tivoli Lighting Parade** - 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 12: * **Children's Parade Oranjestad** - 12 p.m.

Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been trying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

Are we having fun yet? All ages will enjoy Flowrider and Fun City

How many parents chasing after their little ones while on vacation have had that phrase cross their minds? "Are WE having fun yet?" Watching out for the kids on vacation and keeping them entertained can make many a parent wonder if the trip was worth it, but now there is an all encompassing answer at Palm Beach Plaza Shopping Mall that will provide hours of exciting entertainment for all ages and peace of mind for anxious parents.

The Flowrider/ Fun City complex in Palm Beach takes up the area of a full size resort

was named "Best Playground of 2010" by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions; both provide great ways for energetic young bodies to get a workout while also being guided through learning entertainment for all ages and peace



Learning activities to stimulate young minds



Share the fun on Flowrider

and offers great activities at reasonable prices for every member of the family. Everyone will love spending time in the only Flowrider surfing environment in the Caribbean, while parents can leave their youngest at Fun City under careful security and supervision to relax and enjoy a bit of shopping, or a delightful dinner for just the two of them.

Fun City offers 3 age-appropriate environments for youngsters from 1 year to 12, with trained group leaders seeing to all the children's needs and providing educational fun for the little ones. There is the Baby Gym for ages 3 or 4 and Comfyland for kids up to 10, which

offers terrific packages that will make it an event to remember at a reasonable price.

All the family will find Flowrider and Fun City adding an exciting new aspect to their Aruba vacation and now you have an answer when you teenagers ask "Are we having fun yet?"



offers terrific packages that will make it an event to remember at a reasonable price.

All the family will find Flowrider and Fun City adding an exciting new aspect to their Aruba vacation and now you have an answer when you teenagers ask "Are we having fun yet?"

No anorexia emergency, La Scala ballerinas claim

MILAN (AFP) - The ballet company at Milan's famous La Scala opera house fought back after one of their leading dancers was fired for giving interviews in which she said the industry has an anorexia problem.

The dance corps said in a statement that it was "flabbergasted and embittered" over Maria Francesca Garritano's allegations that eating disorders are rife and anorexia affects as many as one in five dancers.

The blonde ballerina, 33, was fired last month after ignoring La Scala's warnings to

stop making statements that damaged its reputation.

In the interviews, Garritano had said she suffered from anorexia when she was younger, and saw her weight plummet to 43 kilos.

The ballet company said that while it was surprised by La Scala's decision to fire Garritano, it felt it necessary to publicly refute her allegations.

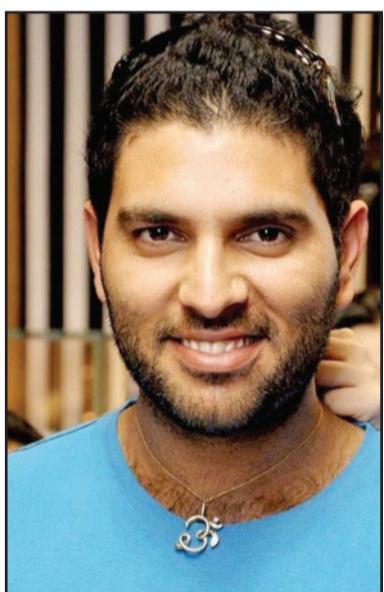
"We do not feel that we can support a campaign against the theatre, and the world of dance in general, which we do not agree with and which makes us feel victimised," it said.

"To read certain newspapers -- and even some internal union statements -- it seems that there is one courageous heroine who is fighting alone against a hellish place where many girls suffer in silence. This is not true," it added.

La Scala theatre's spokesman told AFP: "Garritano is describing a personal affair which she lived through 15 years ago, which in no way reflects the situation at the theatre today."

"Management at the dance corps completely changed six years ago," he said.

Cricket: Cancer-hit Yuvraj vows to return stronger



NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's cancer-stricken World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh has vowed to return "stronger than ever" to competitive cricket, saying he was responding well to treatment in the United States.

The ace all-rounder, named man of the tournament after India's World Cup win in April last year, is currently undergoing chemotherapy for a rare condition, mediastinal semi-

noma, a malignant tumour located between his lungs.

"I have immense faith in the doctors here and by the grace of God I shall be back to my best soon," Yuvraj said from his hospital in Boston in remarks published in the Times of India newspaper on Wednesday.

"I am on medication and doctors have time and again told me that I am responding well and that I would be back playing cricket. I am a fighter and I will return stronger than ever."

A senior Delhi-based oncologist who has been treating the 30-year-old Yuvraj, Nitesh Rohatgi also said Monday the cricketer would be able to start active training by May.

Yuvraj said he drew inspiration from American cyclist Lance Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to win numerous Tour de France titles.

"I am currently reading Lance Armstrong's book 'It's Not About The Bike'. I'm sure

the book will motivate me and pull me through this difficult time," he said.

Yuvraj had a dream run in the World Cup, scoring 362 runs and grabbing 15 wickets in nine matches. He has not played competitive cricket since taking part in two of three home Tests against the West Indies in November.

Thousands of well-wishers, including team-mates, officials and politicians, sent messages of support.

"It is the love of family, friends and fans that has kept me going," said Yuvraj, who has scored 8,051 runs in 274 one-dayers and 1,775 runs in 37 Tests since making his international debut in 2000.

"Till a couple of days ago, I was responding to posts and tweets on my accounts on social networking sites, but the sheer volume of comments praying for my well-being would require people to be hired to ensure everyone is responded to."

Yuvraj also appealed for an end to media speculation about his illness.

Capello quits as continued from page 16

His clumsy handling of the decision to reappoint Terry last year -- replacing Rio Ferdinand without informing the respected Manchester United defender first -- was sharply criticised.

With the FA letting it be known that they would prefer Capello's successor to be English, Tottenham manager Redknapp emerged as the overwhelming favourite to take up the post.

The biggest obstacle to Redknapp becoming England manager vanished on Wednesday when the 64-year-old was acquitted of tax evasion following a two-and-a-half week trial at Southwark Crown Court.

One bookmaker immediately suspended betting on Redknapp replacing Capello as odds on the Londoner taking over were slashed.

Former England managers Graham Taylor and Sven-Goran Eriksson both said Redknapp would be a logical successor.

"Now that Harry has been proved innocent it makes a clear path should the FA wish in the future to offer him the England manager's job when Fabio Capello comes to the end of his reign," Taylor told the BBC.

Eriksson meanwhile said Redknapp had the perfect profile for the role.

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Tennis: Sanchez Vicario blames parents for loss of winnings



PARIS - This file picture dated June 5, 1994 shows Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (C) gets a kiss from her parents, Marisa Vicario (L) and Emilio Sanchez (R) as she holds the winner's trophy after defeating French Mary Pierce in the Women's French Open final in Paris.

MADRID (AFP) - Former Spanish tennis ace Arantxa Sanchez Vicario blames her parents for losing the roughly 45 million euros (\$60 million) she earned throughout her career, in a new book published this week.

The 40-year-old, who retired in 2002 after winning four Grand Slam titles and once holding the number one ranking, said she no longer speaks to her parents, whom she accuses of mismanaging the money she earned through endorsements and tournament

wins.

"They left me with nothing," she wrote in the book of memoirs called "Let's Go! Memories of a fight, a life and a woman" which hit bookstores in Spain on Tuesday.

Sanchez Vicario said she owed Spanish tax authorities money and was poorer than her older brother Javier even though "he won far fewer tournaments throughout his career."

"Should I accept this abuse and shut up? I am not going to do it," she wrote in the book.

She also blamed her parents for being slapped with a fine of 3.5 million euros for paying her taxes in Andorra instead of in Spain.

"This was very hard for me. Once again, it is a case of the people who managed my career making decisions without consulting me," Sanchez Vicario wrote in the book.

Her mother, Marisa Vicario Rubio, denied profiting from her daughter's gains and said she was saddened by the accusations made in the book.

"We will read her book carefully. Then it will be the moment for me, and also my husband Emilio, and for our lawyers to reply to the false accusations made about us," she said in a statement.

"And it will become clear that we did not profit from Arantxa and that she obviously is not broke."

Among Sanchez Vicario's victories were French Open titles in 1989, 1994 and 1998, and a United States Open title in 1994, when she beat Steffi Graf in the final.

She reached the final at Wimbledon each of the next two years, losing both times to Graf.

Sanchez Vicario also won six Grand Slam events in doubles and four in mixed doubles, reaching number one in the world in doubles in 1992 and in singles in 1995.

In 2007 she became the first Spanish woman to be elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

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Football: Capello quits as England manager

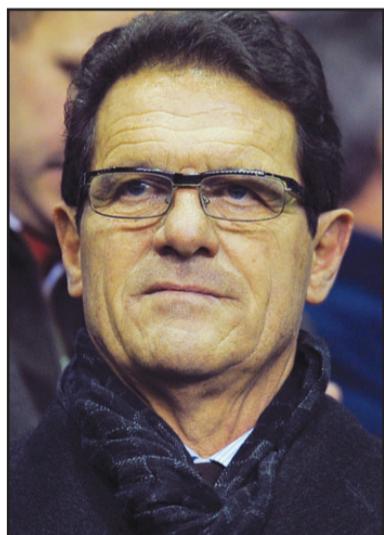
LONDON (AFP) - Fabio Capello resigned as manager of England following the Football Association's decision to strip John Terry of the captaincy, the FA confirmed.

In a remarkable twist to one of the most dramatic days in English football history, Capello's resignation was confirmed just hours after his likely successor Harry Redknapp was cleared of tax evasion charges.

Capello's departure from the post followed talks with FA officials reported to be furious at the Italian coach's public criticism of last week's decision to axe Terry as captain.

Capello's position had come under scrutiny after he told an Italian broadcaster on Sunday that he disagreed "absolutely" with the dismissal of Terry, who faces a criminal trial for allegations of racially abusing QPR defender Anton Ferdinand during a Premier League match in October 2011.

Although senior FA officials were known to be unhappy with Capello's comments, the former AC Milan and Real Madrid coach was expected to remain for the final few months of his contract, which expires after Euro 2012.



However in a bombshell announcement released shortly after 7.20pm (1920 GMT), the FA confirmed that Capello's four-year reign was over.

"The Football Association can confirm that Fabio Capello has today resigned as England Manager," the statement said, following discussions between Capello, FA chairman David Bernstein and FA General Secretary Alex Horne.

Capello was not immediately available for comment. FA officials have scheduled a press conference at Wembley

for today.

The 65-year-old took over as England coach in December 2007 following the country's failure to qualify for the Euro 2008 final, signed a lucrative £6 million-a-year contract with a brief to halt years of English footballing under-achievement on the international stage.

His hardline disciplinarian approach reaped impressive results during an initial two-year honeymoon period, when a revitalised England qualified for the 2010 World Cup with ease.

Capello won praise for his handling of the first controversy involving Terry's captaincy, when he summarily

dismissed the Chelsea defender following allegations about his private life in early 2010.

However the bubble burst after a disastrous campaign in South Africa, which saw England draw with the United States and Algeria, scrape a 1-0 win over Slovenia before suffering a humiliating 4-1 thrashing by Germany.

Capello, who had controversially been given a contract extension just prior to the finals, managed to cling on to his position but in many respects was battling the perception of being a lame duck manager.

continues on page 14

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